

State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2011

373S0750

HOUSE COMMEMORATION NO. 1011

Introduced by: Representatives Novstrup (David), Carson, Conzet, Cronin, Deelstra, Dennert, Fargen, Feickert, Feinstein, Gosch, Hansen (Jon), Hawley, Hoffman, Lust, Munsterman, Perry, Wick, and Willadsen and Senators Novstrup (Al), Adelstein, Begalka, Bradford, Brown, Buhl, Cutler, Frerichs, Frysliie, Garnos, Gray, Hansen (Tom), Haverly, Heineman, Holien, Hundstad, Hunhoff (Jean), Johnston, Kraus, Krebs, Lederman, Maher, Nelson (Tom), Olson (Russell), Peters, Putnam, Rampelberg, Rave, Rhoden, Schlekeway, Sutton, Tidemann, Tieszen, and Vehle

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Congratulating and honoring Coach Don Meyer, from Aberdeen, South Dakota, the winningest college basketball coach in NCAA history.

WHEREAS, Coach Don Meyer spent twenty-four years coaching NAIA I David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee, where he reached the seven hundred-win mark faster than any other coach and won a NAIA National Championship in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Coach Meyer joined the team of Northern State University in 1999, where Meyer led the Wolves to their second best record in school history in 2007-08, going 29-4 overall and taking second place in the NSIC with a 16-2 record; and

WHEREAS, Meyer made basketball history when he took over the top spot of the career victories chart. Meyer claimed his nine hundred and third victory on January 10, 2009, leading the NSU Wolves past the University of Mary 82-62; and

WHEREAS, while at Northern, NSU led the nation for attendance in All Division 2 Basketball for five years in a row; and

WHEREAS, Meyer leads all NCAA men's coaches with 923 wins; and

WHEREAS, Meyer was the head coach for the Wolves for eleven seasons; and

WHEREAS, Meyer's journey took an unexpected turn when he was involved in a life-threatening car accident and inoperable cancer diagnosis, from which Meyer returned to the sidelines for the 2008-09 season, leading the Wolves to their second straight appearance in the Division II national tournament; and

WHEREAS, Meyer is now retired from coaching and serves as Regents Distinguished Professor and Assistant to the President at NSU, and travels around the country giving

motivational talks and doing what he loves best - teaching others; and

WHEREAS, his professional achievements have been recognized by his colleagues and other sports experts including South Dakota Board of Regents Distinguished Professor; 2009 Jimmy V Perseverance Award at the ESPN ESPYS; 2010 Coach John Wooden "Keys to Life" Award; 2010 John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement Award at the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame; the subject of a book by Buster Olney of ESPN, "How Lucky You Can Be - The Story of Coach Don Meyer"; and induction into the 2011 Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eighty-sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Northern State University Coach Don Meyer be congratulated and honored as the winningest college coach in NCAA history, for his many other distinctions and achievements, and for putting South Dakota on the national stage.